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United States, 1776-1861," by the same editor, has proved a book of exceptional value to students of American history and institutions. The present work appears to be a worthy companion volume. The aim has been to bring together the chief constitutional and legal documents of the American colonial period. The last contains the most important colonial charters, grants, and frames of government, the acts of Parliament most directly affecting the American colonies, and the statutes and state papers of the period immediately preceding the Revolution. Where there has been abridgment it has been done with much judgment; and, so far as appears, the text of the various documents has been reproduced with great care. Though the selection is the best yet published, the editor owes much to his predecessors, especially to Channing and Hart's *American History Leaflets* which he does not acknowledge. For example, he doubtless owes to them the Royal proclamation concerning America, 1763, one of the most important of colonial state papers.

THE LAW OF PLEADING UNDER THE CODES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE. By Edwin E. Bryant. Second Edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1899. pp. xxv, 400. This volume is much the same as the first edition published in 1894. Practically the only change is in the citation of a few later authorities and the addition of a summary of the different statutes in the various States relating to the survivability of actions. It is a convenient condensation of the principles of code pleading, with a useful analytical index of the code sections of the twenty-seven States and Territories which have adopted the Reformed Procedure. Although several difficult subjects, such as the System of Pleading in the Courts of Equity and the Civil Law System of Pleading, have been treated perhaps too briefly, the book, on the whole, is a useful introduction to the subject, and points out clearly the changes the Codes have made in the common law system of pleading.

THE LAW RELATING TO THE CUSTODY OF INFANTS. By Lewis Hochheimer. Third Edition. Baltimore: Harold B. Scrimger. 1899. pp. viii, 148. This book is a careful exposition of a small but important topic of the law. The fundamental doctrine of the subject is brought out strongly; that in determining questions of guardianship not the "right" of the parent nor of any other is to be considered, — formerly the rule in England, — but the best interests of the child. The treatment of each minor topic is complete in itself, which, although occasioning some repetition, adds to its availability as a book of ready reference. The more complex questions are fully explained by means of illustrations from decided cases. A discussion of rights and procedure upon *habeas corpus*, copious citations, and an appended collection of forms add to the completeness of the work.

JOHN SELDEN AND HIS TABLE-TALK. By Robert Waters. New York: Eaton & Mains; Cincinnati: Curtis & Jennings. 1899. pp. 251. This little book is a republication of the greater part of Selden's Table-Talk as given by Milward — and the selection includes all the passages which are likely to be of interest at the present day. The book is in handy form and neatly gotten up. The historical introduction gives an interesting account of Selden, but is so rambling and superficial that it is of little value. The footnotes are open to the same objection.